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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/758,317	01/12/2001	Hisashi Sembra	04853.0055-00	9114

22852 7590 10/22/2002
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EXAMINER	
MARX, IRENE	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1651
DATE MAILED: 10/22/2002 12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/758,317	Applicant(s) Sembra et al.
Examiner Irene Marx	Art Unit 1651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 23, 2002

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 11-13, 16-18, 21, 22, and 25-40 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) 21, 22, 25-28, and 35-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 11-13, 16-18, and 29-34 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 11

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

The amendment filed 8/23/02 is acknowledged. Claims 11-13,16-18, 29-34 are being considered on the merits. Claims 21-22, 25-28 and 35-40 are withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention.

This application contains claims 21-22, 25-28 and 35-40 drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in Paper No. 18. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 11-13,16-18, 29-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

No basis or support is found in the present specification for an immobilized enzyme comprising material derived from more than one source.

Therefore, this material raises the issue of new matter and should be deleted..

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11-13,16-18, 29-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11 is confusing in the recitation "absorbed on". Do applicants mean "adsorbed on"?

With regard to the recitation "*Poaceae (Gramineae)*", applicant now indicates that these terms are synonymous. In that case, one of the terms is clearly sufficient and the recitation of both is redundant and one of the terms, such as the parenthetical "*(Gramineae)*" should be deleted.

Claims 11 and 16 are vague and indefinite in the recitation "derived from one or more of...", since it is unclear whether the enzyme is derived by chemical, physical or biological means, since the immobilized enzyme appears to be "derived" from more than one source. See also the new matter rejection *supra*.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Applicants arguments are persuasive regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C § 102, which are removed.

Claims 11-13, 16-18, 29-34 are/remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wehtje *et al.* (1988) taken with Wehtje *et al.* (1993), Wehtje *et al.* (1990), Effenberger *et al.* and Andruski *et al.* for the reasons as stated in the last Office action and the further reasons below.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

Applicant's argue that the immobilized enzymes disclosed by Wehtje are not the same enzyme as claimed herein. This is true and for that reason the rejections under 35 U.S.C §102

are no longer maintained. However, it is submitted that the claims are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 based on these references in combination with Effenberger and Andruski *et al.*.

Applicants argue that while (S)-hydroxynitrile lyase, the correct enzyme, is immobilized by Effenberger, it is immobilized on nitrocellulose rather than on an inorganic material. Discussions of an Altshuler reference are not understood. Do applicants mean Andruski *et al.*. Inasmuch as applicants refer to "absorption", it is not apparent whether this terminology does or does not encompass covalent attachment.

With respect to applicant's arguments regarding the behavior of (S)-hydroxynitrile lyase upon "absorption" to the claimed carriers is noted. However, inasmuch as the claims encompass a mixture of enzymes derived from various sources, these arguments are misleading. It is submitted with all due respect that the behavior of such a mixture of enzymes regarding its effects on conformation and activity cannot be determined more readily than those of the enzymes disclosed by the references.

Therefore the rejection is deemed proper and it is adhered to.

No claim is allowed.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irene Marx whose telephone number is (703) 308-2922. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Wityshyn, can be reached on (703) 308-4743. The appropriate fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3592,
(703) 308-4242 and (703) 305-3014.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to Customer Service whose telephone number is (703) 308-0198 or the
receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

Irene Marx

Irene Marx
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1651